



WASHINGTON, DC TOUR INFORMATION

National Archives

Tour Summary: Features the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the U.S. Bill of Rights, and other national treasures.

Address: 700 Pennsylvania Ave, NW

Closest Metro Stop: Archives-Navy Memorial (Green and Yellow Lines)

Hours: Open daily, March 15 - Labor Day; 10 A.M. - 7 P.M, Day after Labor Day - March 14 10 A.M. - 5:30 (Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas)

Costs: Free.

Restrictions: All food and beverages are prohibited.

How to request a tour: Tours are self-guided. Contact (202) 357-5000 to schedule a visit. For a guided tour of “The National Archives Experience,” reservations must be made at least 6 weeks in advance. Contact visitorservices@nara.gov to schedule a tour.

Notes: The Rotunda entrance which includes the Exhibit Hall is on Constitution Avenue.

Website: <http://www.archives.gov/nae/>

Arlington National Cemetery

Tour Summary: Highlights include the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Amphitheater, the Curtis-Lee Mansion, and the graves of Presidents John F. Kennedy and William Howard Taft.

Address: Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA

Closest Metro Stop: Arlington Cemetery (Blue Line)

Hours: Opens at 8 AM every day of the year. From April 1-Sept 30 the cemetery closes at 7PM, the other six months it closes at 5 PM. Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier occurs each hour on the hour and every half hour in the summer months.

Costs: Free. There is an option of a narrated bus tours starting from the visitors' center for a cost: Adults \$8.75, Children \$4.50, Seniors \$7.50. The cost of parking is \$1.75/hour for the first three hours, and \$2.50/hour thereafter.

Website: <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/>

Washington Monument

Summary: The tallest free-standing masonry structures in the world, standing 555 feet tall. The monument is dedicated to the memory of our nation's first president, George Washington.

Address: Located on Constitution Avenue, NW

Closest Metro Stop: Smithsonian (Blue/Orange Line)

Hours: Open daily from 9 AM - 5 PM.

Costs: Free Tickets: The Washington Monument Lodge, located along 15th Street, opens at 8:30 a.m. for distribution of free, same day, timed tickets on a first-come first-served basis. One person may obtain up to six tickets as well as request their preferred ticket time. All visitors (including children ages 2+) must have a ticket to enter the

Washington Monument. During peak season, tickets run out quickly. Be advised that many visitors form a line to wait for the ticket window to open long before the ticket window opens.

Order advance tickets online or call 1.877.444.6777 for individual tickets or 1.877.559.6777 for group reservations. There is a \$1.50 service charge per ticket. These tickets may be picked up at the “will call” window of the Washington Monument Lodge on the day of your tour. Availability is limited. During the peak season of April-September, tickets frequently are completely booked months in advance.

Notes: Facilities include exhibits, a book store, restrooms and concessions.

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/wamo/planyourvisit/feesandreservations.htm>

Jefferson Memorial

Summary: Honors America’s third president. It features a 19-foot bronze statue of Jefferson and inscriptions of passage of the Declaration of Independence and other famous Jefferson writings.

Address: 14th St, SW on the tidal basin.

Tour Length: Park rangers give 15-minute talks several times an hour.

Closest Metro Stop: Smithsonian (Blue and Orange Lines), 10-15 minute walk

Hours: daily 9:30 AM - 11:45 PM daily. The lower lobby is open daily from 8 AM - 11:30 PM.

Notes: The lower lobby holds an elevator to provide access to the Memorial Chamber, Restrooms, Museum and Bookstore/Gift shop. For more information call (202) 426-6841

Website: www.nps.gov/thje

Korean War Memorial

Summary: Features 19 soldiers arrayed for combat, with the American flag as their symbolic objective. A 164-foot wall is etched with 2,500 photographic images of the support personnel whose efforts sustained the military operation.

Address: Adjacent to the Lincoln Memorial reflecting pool. French Drive, SW

Closest Metro Stop: Foggy Bottom/GWU (Blue and Orange Lines)

Hours: Open 9:30 AM – 11:30 PM daily.

Notes: Facilities include a book store, touch screen registry, restrooms and concessions. For more information call (202) 619-7222

Website: www.nps.gov/kwvm

Lincoln Memorial

Summary: Features a 19-foot marble statue of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. The memorial also exhibits inscriptions of Lincoln’s second Inaugural Address and the Gettysburg

Address: West Potomac Park and 23rd ST, NW

Closest Metro Stop: Foggy Bottom/GWU (Blue and Orange Lines)

Hours: daily 9:30AM-11:30PM,

Notes: The Lincoln Memorial chamber is wheelchair accessible via an elevator in the lower lobby. Wheelchairs are available for loan on a first come first serve basis at the Korean War Veterans memorial and Vietnam Veterans Memorial Kiosks. Restrooms are available at the Lincoln Memorial. For more information call (202) 426-6841

Website: www.nps.gov/linc

U.S.M.C. War Memorial (Iwo Jima Memorial)

Summary: The memorial is dedicated to all personnel of the United States Marine Corps who have died in the defense of the United States since 1775. The memorial features the statues of the six servicemen who raised the second U.S. flag on Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II, on February 23, 1945, five Marines and one Navy corpsman: Sergeant Michael Strank, Corporal Harlon Block, Private First Class Rene Gagnon, Private First Class Ira Hayes, Private First Class Franklin Sousley, and Pharmacist Mate Second Class John Bradley (USN).

Address: Route 50 near Arlington National Cemetery.

Closest Metro Stop: Arlington Cemetery (Blue Line).

Hours: Open 8 AM – midnight

Notes: For more information call (703) 285-2601

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/historyculture/usmcwarmemorial.htm>

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Summary: Honors the men and women of the armed forces who served in the Vietnam War. The V-shaped memorial is made of black granite and is inscribed with the names of the 58,209 Americans missing or killed in the Vietnam War.

Address: North of the Lincoln Memorial.

Closest Metro Stop: Foggy Bottom/GWU (Blue and Orange Lines)

Hours: Open 9:30 AM – 11:30 PM

Notes: For more information call (202) 634-1568

Website: www.nps.gov/vive

World War II Memorial

Summary: The National Mall's newest memorial was dedicated to the men and women of World War II – America's Greatest Generation – on May 29, 2004. The memorial honors the 16 million who served in the armed forces of the U.S. during World War II and the more than 400,000 who died.

Address: 17th St, between Constitution and Independence Avenues, NW

Closest Metro Stop: Smithsonian (Blue and Orange Lines).

Hours: Open 24 hours daily.

Notes: Includes a World War II Registry of the men and women who served. For more information call (202) 619-7222

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/nwwm>

FDR Memorial

Summary: The memorial traces twelve years of American history through a series of four outdoor areas; each focusing on one of FDR's terms in office.

Address: Cherry Tree Walk along Tidal Basin near the Jefferson Memorial.

Closest Metro Stop: Smithsonian (Blue and Orange Lines).

Hours: Open 9:30 AM- 11:30 PM

Notes: Includes a World War II Registry of the men and women who served. For more information call (202) 376-6704

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/frde/>

Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center

Tour Summary: Honors the men and women of the US Navy. Features a 100 foot granite map of the world surrounded by depictions of historic Navy events.

Address: Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, between 7th and 9th streets.

Closest Metro Stop: Archives-Navy Memorial (Green and Yellow Lines).

Hours: Memorial open daily 9:30 AM – 5 PM

Costs: Free. Movie screenings at the Heritage Center cost \$3.75.

Notes: Special events run throughout the year. Call (202) 737-2300

Website: <http://www.navylog.org/>

National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial

Tour Summary: 30 exhibits with mementos left at the memorial, photos from ceremonies, and murals.

Address: E Street NW, between 4th and 5th Streets. The visitor center is located 2 blocks away at 400 7th St NW, corner of 7th and D.

Closest Metro Stop: Judiciary Square (Red Line). Take the F Street exit.

Hours: Open 24 hours a day. Visitors Center Hours: Monday-Friday: 9 AM – 5 PM, Saturday: 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday: 12 Noon – 5 PM. Tours must be scheduled at least a week in advance.

Costs: Free.

How to request a tour: A tour request can be made at

<http://www.nleomf.org/memorial/tours/> or call 202-737-2300

Website: <http://www.nleomf.org/memorial/>

The Smithsonian

The Smithsonian is a collection of 14 museums and sites in the Washington, DC area. Admission to all museums is free.

Anacostia Community Museum – features history and culture of African American communities

Arts and Industries Building – Closed for Renovation

Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and Freer Gallery of Art – features specialized collections of Asian and American art

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden – features exhibits of modern and contemporary art

National Air and Space Museum – features history, science, and technology of aviation and space flight

Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center – located at Washington Dulles International Airport in Chantilly, Virginia – features a collection of aviation and space artifacts that supplements collections at the Air and Space Museum.

National Museum of African Art – collection, research, and exhibition of African art

National Museum of American History – history of science, technology, society, and culture in America

National Museum of the American Indian – collection, preservation, study, and exhibition of living cultures and history of native peoples of the Americas.

National Museum of Natural History – features exhibits focusing on nature

National Portrait Gallery – features portraits of distinguished Americans

National Postal Museum – interactive museum of postal history

National Zoo – features 3,600 animals from 475 species in a 163-acre biological park

Smithsonian American Art Museum and Renwick Gallery – painting, sculpture, graphics, folk art, craft, and photography 18th century to present

Smithsonian Institution Building, the Castle – Smithsonian Information Center

For more information and a complete list of Smithsonian Museums and Sites visit <http://www.si.edu/museums/>

Additional Museums and Art Galleries

Ford's Theatre and Lincoln Museum

Tour Summary: Tribute to President Lincoln's love of the arts. Museum includes the clothes Abraham Lincoln wore on the night of his assassination.

Tour Length: Fifteen minute historical talks.

Address: Located on 10th St between E and F streets.

Closest Metro Stop: Metro Center (Blue, Orange, & Red Lines) or Gallery Place (Green, Yellow, & Red Lines).

Hours: The Lincoln Museum and the house where Lincoln died are open from 8 AM - 11:45 PM every day except Christmas Day. Tours at the theatre are self-guided. Talks are presented at fifteen past the hour except between 12 noon and 2 PM.

Costs: Free.

Notes: Because Ford's Theatre also functions as an active stage with live performances there are times when the theatre will be closed to the public. Matinees usually take place on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons, although rehearsals can take place at any time of day. Advance individual tickets are \$2.50. A limited number of free tickets are available at the Ford's Theatre Box Office beginning at 8:30 a.m. for same-day tickets on a first-come, first-served basis. Individuals are limited to six tickets per person for same-day tickets.

Website: www.fordstheatre.org

Holocaust Memorial Museum

Tour Summary: Three floors of history covering the Nazi's rise to power through the liberation of the troops.

Address: 14th St and Raoul Wallenberg Place in Washington, DC

Directions: Public transportation is advised as parking is very limited.

Closest Metro: Smithsonian (Blue/Orange Lines)

Hours: The Museum is open every day except Yom Kippur (September 14, 2013) and Christmas Day (December 25) from 10 AM–5:20 PM. However, between **March and August** the Museum distributes free passes to the [Permanent Exhibition](#). Timed passes are available at the Museum on the day of your visit or [online in advance](#). The earliest pass time is 10 AM and the latest is 4 PM. At the Museum, passes are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 10 AM

Costs: Free.

Restrictions: Eating, drinking and smoking are not permitted. Video/audio recording are not permitted. Photography is not permitted in the exhibitions. Flash photography is not permitted in the Hall of Remembrance.

Notes: For more information call (202) 488-0400

Website: www.ushmm.org

International Spy Museum

Tour Summary: The only public museum in the world solely dedicated to the tradecraft, history, and contemporary role of espionage. The Museum's permanent exhibition presents the tradecraft of espionage through the stories of individuals and their missions, tools and techniques. Exhibits feature the largest collection of international espionage artifacts ever on public display – many for the first time.

Address: The entire city block between 9th and 8th Streets at 800 F Street, NW

Closest Metro Stop: Gallery Place/Chinatown Metro (Green, Yellow, & Red Lines)

Hours: All tickets are date and time specific. Advance tickets are highly recommended and can be purchased at www.ticketmaster.com

Costs: Adult (ages 12-64): \$19.95, Seniors (55+) and Active Duty Military & Intel Community: \$15.95, Children (ages 7-11): \$14.95, Children age 6 and under are free.

How to Request a Tour: Groups of 20 or more qualify for Group Admission and require advance reservations which can be made by calling (202) 393-7798

Notes: Regular hours are 10 AM- 6 PM. The Museum is closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. On occasion the Museum closes earlier than regular visiting hours.

Website: www.spymuseum.org

National Building Museum

Summary: Exhibits change yearly and range from Shakespeare for the 21st Century to years of Domestic Architecture to America's World's Fairs.

Tour Length: 45 minutes.

Address: 401 F St, NW, between 4th and 5th Streets.

Closest Metro Stop: Judiciary Square (Red Line).

Hours: The National Building Museum is open to the public Monday - Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM, and Sunday, 11 AM to 5 PM. The Museum is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. On rare occasions, the Museum may close for a special event.

Walk-in public tours are offered Monday through Wednesday at 12:30 PM, and Thursday through Sunday at 11:30 AM, 12:30 PM, and 1:30

Costs: Free, but there is a \$5 suggested donation.

Notes: Groups of 10 or more must make a reservation by contacting the group coordinator at grouptours@nbm.org. Fees may apply to group tours for 10 or more. Wheelchair access is available through the G Street entrance. For more information call (202) 272-2448

Website: <http://www.nbm.org/>

Daughters of the American Revolution Museum

Summary: The DAR Museum is comprised of 31 period rooms and 2 galleries. The collection consists of over 30,000 decorative and fine arts objects spanning the 18th and 19th centuries.

Tour Length: 45 minutes.

Address: 1776 D Street, NW. Two blocks from the White House.

Closest Metro Stop: Farragut West (Blue and Orange Lines) or Farragut North (Red Line)

Hours: GUIDED TOURS: Groups of 9 or less: Free tours on the hour and half-hour Monday through Friday 10 AM to 2:30 PM and Saturday 9 AM to 4:30 PM. Groups of 10 or more: Reservations are required with a fee of \$3 per person. Tours are on the hour and half-hour Monday through Friday 10 AM to 2:30 PM.

SELF -GUIDED TOURS: Anytime Monday through Friday 9:30 AM to 4 PM and Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM. Self-guided groups of 10 or more are asked to notify the museum of their planned visit at 202-879-3341 or email museum@dar.org

Notes: For more information call (202) 628-1776

Website: <http://www.dar.org/museum/>

National Geographic Society Museum at Explorers Hall

Summary: The Hall features permanent interactive geography and science exhibits, as well as changing displays to give visitors opportunities to share in recent archaeological finds, the latest in photography, and expositions of exotic cultures.

Address: 1145 17th St NW

Closest Metro Stop: Farragut North (Red Line).

Hours: Open Monday – Saturday 10 AM – 6 PM daily (Closed Christmas)

Costs: Adults- \$8, Military/Students/Seniors- \$6, Children (Ages 5-12)- \$4

Notes: No guided tours are available. For more information call (202) 857-7588

Website: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/museum/>

National Gallery of Art

Tour Summary: Encompasses all aspects of the visual arts.

Address: National Mall between 3rd and 7th streets at Constitution Ave.

Closest Metro Stop: Archives-Navy Memorial (Green and Yellow Lines).

Hours: Open Monday-Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM and Sundays 11 AM – 6 PM.

Costs: Free.

How to request a tour: Audio Tours: Reservations are needed for groups larger than 10 and can be made at (202) 737-4215. Introductory Tours: Times for the tours range by exhibit from 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM.

Notes: For more information visit

Website: <http://www.nga.gov/>

Other Points of Interest

Dumbarton Oak

Tour Summary: Visitors can wander through sixteen acres of beautiful landscape, through small formal gardens, a Roman-style amphitheater, and down Lovers' Lane. Collections of pre-Columbian art.

Address: 1703 32nd St., NW (One block east of Wisconsin Ave. between R and S Streets in Georgetown). **Closest Metro Stop:** Foggy Bottom (Blue and Orange Lines).

Cost: Free

Hours: Open daily (except Mondays) from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m

Regular Season (March 15 through October 31): The gardens are open from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Tickets and Season Passes may be purchased at the Garden Gate.

Admission is:

\$10 Regular admission

\$8 Seniors (60+),

\$5 for students and children (12 and under)

Free for Harvard faculty, students, and staff (with Harvard photo ID)

Unlimited regular season access with a Season Pass:

\$75 Single Season Pass

\$95 Double Season Pass

\$110 Family Pass

Website: http://www.doaks.org/about/guided_tours.html

Federal Bureau of Investigations

Tour Summary: In the FBI Education Center, constituents will be able to walk through two floors of exhibits detailing the FBI's history, post-9/11 transformation, and current operations. They will glimpse the special tactical training Special Agents and

FBI personnel receive, as well as an array of cases the Bureau has investigated over the years. As a bonus, the FBI Firearms Range is located within the Education Center, so visitors will be able to see first-hand where FBI Special Agents train and qualify with their weapons. *Not recommended for children under the age of 16*.

Tour Length: Between 1.5 and 2 hours

Hours: Monday through Thursday, Normal Business Hours.

Please contact Tour Coordinator to schedule this tour - The FBI requires 3 to 4 weeks advance notice from Congressional offices prior to your visit.

Botanic Gardens

Tour Summary: Highlights include the Conservatory and two acres of surrounding exterior grounds, the outdoor display gardens in Frederic Auguste Bartholdi Park, and the Administration Building.

Tour Length: 45 minutes

Address: 100 Maryland Ave, SW

Closest Metro Stop: Blue Federal Center SW (Blue Line) or Capital South (Orange and Blue Lines).

Hours: 10 AM -5 PM every day, including weekends and holidays.

Costs: Free.

Notes: Visitors are welcome in Bartholdi Park from dawn until dusk and can access it from any of the three bordering streets - Independence Avenue, Washington Avenue or First Street.

For more information visit

Website: www.usbg.gov _

Folger Shakespeare Library

Tour Summary: Home to the world's largest Shakespeare collection.

Address: 201 East Capitol Street, SE

Closest Metro Stops: Union Station (Red Line) or Capitol South (Blue and Orange Lines)

Hours: The library is open to the public Monday through Saturday from 10 AM – 5 PM and 12 PM- 5 PM on Sundays but is closed on all federal holidays. Docent tours of the building and the current exhibition are available Monday through Friday at 11 AM -3 PM and on Saturday at 11 AM and 1 PM. Docent tours of the Elizabethan Garden are available every third Saturday of the month, from April through October, at 10 AM and 11 AM.

Costs: Free.

How to Request a Tour: Group tours are available for both school groups and adult groups, and must be arranged in advance. Please call the Education department at (202) 675-0395.

Notes: If you have any questions call (202) 675-0309 before 8:45 AM and (202)544-4600 from 8:45 AM - 4:45 PM. To learn about a performance or event, call (202) 544-7077.

Website: www.folger.edu

National Aquarium

Summary: Tanks of fish, frogs, alligators and sharks.

Tour Length: 45 minutes.

Address: 14th St, between Constitution Ave and Pennsylvania Ave, NW

Directions: Located in the U.S. Department of Commerce Building

Closest Metro Stop: Federal Triangle (Blue and Orange Lines).

Hours: Open daily 9 AM – 5 PM. Last admission is at 4:30 PM. Animal keeper hosted talks and animal feedings occur daily at 2 PM. Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas.
Costs: Adult (12-59) \$9.95, Senior and Military Personnel \$8.95, Children (3-11) \$4.95, Children under 3 are free. Credit cards cannot be used for admission.
Notes: For more information call (202) 482-2825
Website: www.nationalaquarium.com

National Cathedral

Tour Summary: One can see the dramatic art and Gothic architecture of the Cathedral.

Address: Wisconsin Ave

Directions: *Metro directions:* Exit on the west side of Wisconsin Avenue. Take any 30 series bus going south. Ride approximately one and one-half miles south on Wisconsin Avenue to the Cathedral. *Driving directions:* From Downtown DC take Massachusetts Avenue north to Wisconsin Avenue. Turn right onto Wisconsin Avenue. The Cathedral is on your immediate right.

Closest Metro Stop: Tenleytown/AU (Red Line).

Hours: Monday-Friday 10 AM - 5:30 PM with tours 10 AM - 11:30 AM and 1 PM- 3:30 PM. Saturday open 10 AM - 4:30 PM with tours 10 AM – 11:30 AM and 1 PM - 3 PM. Sunday open 8 AM - 4 PM for services

Costs: Guided tour fees: Adults \$5, Seniors \$3, Children \$1, \$5 for Family. Audio tour fees: \$5 per person. Tour and Tea fees: \$30 per person.

Website: <http://www.nationalcathedral.org/>

Mount Vernon

Tour Summary: A privately owned estate and garden, once the home of George and Martha Washington. In the 18th century the estate, gardens, and farm totaled 8,000 acres. Today, 500 acres have been preserved. Visitors can see 20 structures and 50 acres of gardens as they existed in 1799. In addition, one can see the tombs of George and Martha Washington, Washington's greenhouse, a memorial to the accomplishments of 18th century slaves and a museum.

Address: 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121. About 16 miles south of Washington, DC.

Closest Metro Stop: Huntington Station (Yellow Line) to Fairfax Connector Bus.

Hours: Open every day of the year. April 31st - August 8 AM - 5 PM; March, September, October 9 AM – 5 PM; November - February 9 AM – 4 PM.

Costs: Adults (12-61) \$15, Seniors \$14 (62+), Children (ages 6-11) \$7, Children 5 and under are free. A shuttle to the Pioneer Farm Site is available from March 11 to November.

Restrictions: No food or drink except for bottled water is allowed. Gum, strollers and motorized scooters are not allowed in the mansion. Dogs are allowed but must be on a leash.

How to Request a Tour: Contact (703) 780-2000

Website: www.mountvernon.org

Naval Observatory

Tour Summary: Tours begin with a history and mission of the Observatory. In continues with the viewing of development of USNO's timekeeping responsibilities with a member of the Observatory's Time Services Department staff and a viewing of celestial objects with an Astronomer if the weather permits.

Address: 3450 Massachusetts Ave, NW

Hours: Public tours are offered on alternating Monday evenings from 8:30 AM – 10 PM and are available by reservation only.

Costs: Free.

Restrictions: Backpacks, bags and bulky items are not permitted on the grounds. Photo ID is required for adults.

How to request a tour: You must submit your tour reservation 4 to 6 weeks in advance through the USNO website. You must provide the names and dates-of-birth of all individuals in your party. As a requestor you must also provide an email address or daytime telephone number so that the USNO may contact you with the status of your request. You will receive an email or telephone confirmation when your order has been processed no later than the Friday before your first choice tour date.

Website: www.usno.navy.mil/usno

Union Station

Summary: A major train station, transportation hub, and leisure destination in Washington, D.C. Opened in 1907, Union Station is one of the busiest rail facilities and shopping destinations in the country being visited by over 40 million people a year. It is both Amtrak's headquarters and its second busiest station with annual ridership of over 5 million. The station also serves MARC and VRE commuter rail services, the Washington Metro, and buses. At the height of its traffic during World War II as many as 200,000 people passed through in a single day. A new head house wing was added in 1988 to the north side of the original station which was then renovated for use as a shopping mall.

Address: 50 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, on the Senate side of the Capitol

Closest Metro Stop: Union Station (Red Line).

Hours: Open 24 hours. Shops are open Monday-Saturday from 10 AM - 9 PM, and Sunday from 12 noon - 6 PM.

Newseum

Summary: This museum, which opened in April of 2008, is devoted entirely to the history and development of everything involving news. It has seven levels of galleries, theatres, and hands-on exhibits that take visitors behind the scenes to experience how and why news is made.

Address: Pennsylvania Avenue and Sixth Street NW

Closest Metro Stop: Judiciary Square (Red Line) or Penn Quarter Station (Yellow and Green Lines)

Hours: 9 AM - 5 PM daily, closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day

Costs: Adults (19-64) \$21.95, Seniors (65 and older) \$17.95, Youth (7-18) \$12.95, and Children (6 and younger) Free, for large groups call 888-639-7386

Website: www.newseum.org

The National Zoo

Summary: Smithsonian's National Zoo is a great place to discover and appreciate diverse and unusual creatures. Daily programs include animal training, feeding demonstrations, and keeper talks.

Address: 3001 Connecticut Avenue NW

Closest Metro Stop: Woodley Park/Zoo/Adams Morgan (Red Line)

Hours: April – October Grounds: 6 AM – 8 PM, Buildings: 10 AM – 6 PM; November – March Grounds: 6 AM -6 PM, Buildings: 10 AM – 4:30 PM

Costs: Free

Website: www.nationalzoo.si.edu

The Kennedy Center

Summary: A tour of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, situated on the banks of the Potomac River, is a highlight of any visit to Washington, D.C. As the nation's performing arts center and a living memorial to President John F. Kennedy, the Kennedy Center welcomes three million visitors annually. The tour highlights the historic events that led up to the establishment of a national cultural center, as well as an interactive exhibit on the life and presidency of John F. Kennedy.

The tour also includes the majestic Hall of States Hall of Nations and five of the Center's main theaters, including its three grand performance halls (the Concert Hall, Opera House, and Eisenhower Theater). From the magnificent Opera House chandelier, a gift from Austria that measures 50 feet across, to the 3,700 tons of marble from Carrara, Italy, lining the walls of the Hall of Nations, to the gorgeous Israeli Lounge, these gems reflect the many extraordinary gifts from the governments of more than 60 countries that make the Kennedy Center truly an international destination. Also featured on the tour are works of art by renowned 20th century artists, including Lucien Wercollier's Ascension and Dame Barbara Hepworth's Figure.

Address: 2700 F St NW

Closest Metro Stop: Foggy Bottom (Blue and Orange line)

Hours: 9:30 or 4:30 for congressional office tours; Public tours are Weekdays: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Weekends: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Public Tours begin approximately every 10 minutes. Walk-ins are welcome. Group Tours (20 or more) can book a private tour by calling the Visitors Center at (202) 416-8340, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. Group tours are scheduled every half hour until 4:30 p.m. weekdays and 12:30 p.m. weekends.

Costs: Free

Website: <http://www.kennedy-center.org/visitor/tours.html>

Washington, DC Transportation

Washington Metro (DC Subway System): From Capitol Hill to Downtown, the Metro is fast, easy, and cheap. Fares start at \$1.55 each way. All-day passes are also available for \$7.00. Tickets can be purchased at any Metro station. www.wmata.com

Buses: Please check www.wmata.com for up-to-date fare information.

Taxis: dctaxi.dc.gov

Old Town Trolley: Trolley tours travel to points of interest throughout the area. They allow unlimited boarding privileges the day of ticket purchase. For tour and ticket information, call (202) 832-9800 or visit www.historictours.com

Segway Tour

Tour Summary: Tours begin with a thirty minute training session. Stops along the tour include the National Mall, Smithsonian, US Capitol, and J. Edgar Hoover FBI Building.

Tour Length: 4 hours.

Address: Willard Hotel, 1455 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Directions: Tours depart from the lobby.

Closest Metro Stop: Metro Center (Blue, Orange, and Red Lines).

Hours: Reservations are needed. Tours available April 1-November 30. Day Tours (10AM-2PM) and Night Tours (6PM-10PM).

Costs: \$75 per person.

Restrictions: Segway tours are only available for people 16 or older.

How to request a tour: Tours can be made via their website,
www.citysegwaytours.com/washington

For a complete list of National Parks in the Washington, DC area visit
<http://www.nps.gov/state/dc/>

For a comprehensive map of the Downtown area visit
<http://www.nps.gov/nama/planyourvisit/upload/NACCmap1.pdf>